

17 September 2003

Tomahawk Soldiers and Families,

Although dates are subject to change, the current estimate is that select personnel will begin deploying as part of the advance party as early as 5 November, and the main body will deploy on or about 14 November. Again, these are estimated dates and are subject to change.

Let me also clarify that there has been no change in the projected length of this operational deployment – TF Tomahawk will be deployed for 12 months.

I remain committed to ensuring you receive at least a 72-hour notice prior to the departure of your spouse with the goal for you to receive a one-week notice. Additional information will continue to be passed during company level pre-deployment briefings, Family Readiness Group channels, and the Battalion internet web page.

Media interest will increase as we get closer to actual deployment. Again, I strongly encourage you not to speculate or spread rumors. If you are not comfortable or don't wish to speak with the media, please refer them to the to I Corps Public Affairs Office at 967-0155.

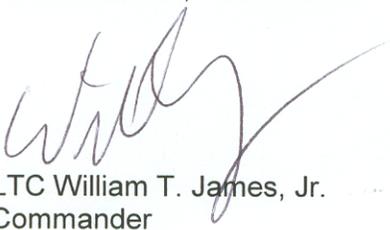
Please be sure to talk to your FRG point of contact and make sure the call out roster has your correct phone number, and that she has your correct snail mail and email addresses. Also, please continue gathering important documents and be sure to fill out your family deployment handbook with all the important information it asks for.

Upcoming events:

- Brigade Commander brief to FRG leaders on 29 & 30 September: This briefing is for FRG leaders down to the company level. **These are not general attendance briefings for all spouses**. The purpose of the briefing is for COL Rounds to thank FRG leaders for their service and to provide them with procedures for casualty notification, Red Cross messages, and other important information. It is requested that FRG leaders attend one of the two the briefings that is most convenient. Both briefings will cover the same information.
- Pre-deployment briefings: Each Company will schedule a pre-deployment briefing for all their spouses in the next four weeks. I have decided to do these briefs at company level instead of one big Battalion brief so that you can hear and see what we brief and ask questions. I will attend each briefing along with CSM Leota and CPT Yeremian (Rear Detachment Commander). Please check with your FRG point of contact for the time and place of your company's pre-deployment briefing.

Again, please accept our sincere thanks for your continued support and understanding.

TOMAHAWKS, WE SERVE!



LTC William T. James, Jr.
Commander



CSM Frank Leota
Command Sergeant Major